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DRAFT

April 26, 1999

Mr. F. J. Bartuska
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3652
US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
COMMERCE PATENTS AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Washington, D. C. 20231

Subject: Amendment & changes to Figure Drawings and Proposed Figure Drawings Application
08/881,021

Mr. Bartuska:

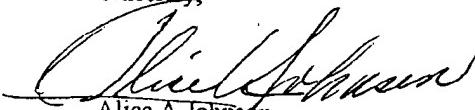
Enclosed in this Fax please find topic we discussed last week insofar as the cancellations of my figure drawings 10-1, 10-2, and figure 14, as this application has been in review for such a long length of time Mr. Bartuska, I am appealing to you for help as I do the corrections so hopefully we can speed the paperwork in some of the areas of the application by faxing them direct and calling this way I feel when I mail the entire package back to you there will be little to go over. I would like to speak to you one more time before I mail in the completed package, as I am not sure of the drawings corrections.

Mr. Bartuska, I would like for you to fax me the drawings, so that I may correct them all and re-number them, as I have mailed you a few set, I would like the ones in the CIP, when my art person comes back from Vegas, I can set down with him and go over them with him, I just got him a few years ago, but he is very good, the drawings I sent you are the ones I printed out, and I guess you know by now that I am about as bad in art as I am in writing patents. But I must admit since I have been dealing with the Patent office I have learned a lot of helpful tips and feel more educated in submitting patents, I thank you very much.

I do get a little dismayed when I am corrected, however, when I do as your office suggests, I see the remarkable difference, and since it is something that the public or a portion of the public may peer, I really would like to do it nice, as well as have it for or when submitting it for promotion.

In closing, one more time I thank you for all your concern, help, and above all your patience, I will ring you after 10:00am on Monday to see if you received this fax mail.

Sincerely,


Alice A Johnson
Patent Applicant
08/881,021

File#08-881.021
Primary Examiner/F J Bartuska

DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATION OF THE INVENTION (continued)

The present invention consists of plug-in subassembly subroutine units, that meet and plug in their mating male or female connector data lines, thus the provisional means of interfacing, and handshaking the CPU (16) compiler programmed system of logic sequential order of operations, whereby readily to receive and transmit data between the CPU (16) and subassembly subroutine units, desired functions.

The data plug in harness lines are numbered and color coded for ease, and convenience matching their appropriate connector, and run around the side's (3), (4), and bottom wall (7), of present invention inner (1) housing, neatly arranged away from functional operations of present invention (1), thus forming a path to the back wall (6), now in position to meet and plug into the mating male or female connectors coming from CPU (16), back private housing (8), located in the top portion of present invention housing (1), the new subassembly subroutine plug-in arrangements provides additional ease in maintenance to present invention housing (1), firstly for interfacing and handshaking the (16) CPU's system of programmed operations and secondly, ease in disconnecting and replacing a particular unit package in the trouble-shooting phase of the apparatus. All logic data on the market today in the continental USA, has supporting documentation of parts, components, chip storage, modems, motors, lock devices, fabricated material, microprocessors and the computer (CPU) chip needed to manufacture present invention (1), which is a Computer (hereafter CPU) compiled in soft and hardware languages, binary codes, and necessary supporting CPU elements to form an operating system, having an interfaced handshaking modem, and is coin operable in design, that will activate a CPU to control a vending machine, that will store, and selectively dispense a variety of products, when ample coin deposited satisfy the CPU operating system protocols, and further store transaction data to its system memory, and whereby utilizing the systems interfaced modem, transmits said stored transactions data to a personal computer, thus allowing communications with vending machines and computers, utilizing computer operating system incorporated in present invention.

Details on the following pages provide the (CPU) sequential steps on coin processing functions, along with a binary chart example of computing coins in binary, the refund process, dispense/vend a product also a list of hardware and software considerations and terms.

CPU Processing

Process 1 - Coin Accepted

Add 1 to Count of coins for the value of the coin accepted
 (i.e. if the second nickel was entered, the count of nickels would be 2)
 Compute the total value of all coins accepted
 (Add value of coin accepted to acceptors' accumulated value)

Process 2 - Refund Requested

Zero all Counts of coins for the specific acceptor
 Zero acceptors' accumulated value (total value of all coins accepted is reset to zero)

Process 3 - Accepted Coins to the Overflow Bin

By Coin type
 Add the number of coins accepted to the number of coins in the coin bin
 Compute the Value of coins in the Overflow Bin by multiplying Coin Value times Coin Count
 Compute the total value of all coins in the Overflow Bin
 (Sum the value of all coins by coin type)

Process 4 - Accepted Coins to the Changer (Sorta)

By Coin type
 Add the number of coins accepted to the number of coins in the coin sorta
 Compute the Value of coins in the sorta by multiplying Coin Value times Coin Count
 Compute the total value of all coins in the Sorta
 (Sum the value of all coins by coin type)

Process 5 - Dispense Change

Compute the amount of change to be dispensed by subtracting the value of the product from the amount accepted
 Use the following table to determine the count of coins, by type, to be returned to the coin return:

Change	Nickels	Dimes	Quarters
\$ 0.05	1	0	0
\$ 0.10	0	1	0
\$ 0.15	1	1	0
\$ 0.20	0	2	0
\$ 0.25	0	0	1
\$ 0.30	1	0	1
\$ 0.35	0	1	1
\$ 0.40	1	1	1
\$ 0.45	0	2	1
\$ 0.50	0	0	2
\$ 0.55	1	0	2
\$ 0.60	0	1	2
\$ 0.65	1	1	2
\$ 0.70	0	2	2
\$ 0.75	0	0	3
\$ 0.80	1	0	3
\$ 0.85	0	1	3
\$ 0.90	1	1	3
\$ 0.95	0	2	3

The Acceptance Process

```
If the coin is accepted
then    Notify the CPU as to type of coin (value) and Acceptor Id (CPU Process 1)
        Save the coin in a holding bin
else (rejected)
    Route coin to the Coin Return
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The Refund Process

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Notify the CPU that a return was requested (CPU Process 2)
Release all coins in the Holding Bin (for the acceptor) to the Coin Return
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Dispense/Vend Process

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If Vending Bin is Empty,
then    no transaction takes place
        Message to operator, "Empty Bin, Make Another Selection"
        Terminate Dispense/Vend Process
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If Vending Bin is Full (default if processing logic passes to this point)
Determine value of Vending Bin (y) Indicator (as each bin can vary in price)
Determine amount accepted in Holding Bin (x) Indicator
If Vending Bin (y) Indicator is greater than Holding Bin (x) Indicator
then    Message to Operator "Insert Additional Amount"
        Terminate Dispense/Vend Process
Dispense Vending Bin
If "Sorta/Changer Full" Indicator
then    Release all Coins in Holding Bin (x) to Overflow Bin
        notify the CPU that a sale was completed (CPU Process 3)
else    Release all Coins in Holding Bin (x) to Sorta/Changer
        notify the CPU that a sale was completed (CPU Process 4)
If Vending Bin (y) Indicator is less than Holding Bin (x) Indicator [change due]
then    Compute amount and coinage of change due (CPU Process 5)
        Dispense Change to the Coin Return (x)
        Terminate Dispense/Vend Process
else    Terminate Dispense/Vend Process
```

Hardware Considerations and Terms

Coin Acceptor

Accepts coins by verifying their value and authenticity. Those coins rejected are routed immediately to the coin return. Coins accepted are routed to the Holding Bin pending refund or vending.

Holding Bin

Area in which all coins are collected for a given acceptor. Coins are released upon request for refund or the vending of the product.

Coin Return

Area which un-accepted coins, full refund (canceled selection) and change is returned to the customer.

Sorta / Changer

Unit that sorts coins to be used in preparing change upon overpayment into "tubes" by coin type. Unit also selects the proper number of coins to be dispensed in the process of making change.

Overflow Bin

Container of all coins from purchases which would not "fit" into the Sorta / Changer at the time of sale.

Assumptions:

All processing is described as if it were a single unit. The only shared component that needs to maintain which Acceptor / Vending Unit is being processed is the Sorta / Changer. This is to insure that the change being delivered is "routed" to the appropriate Coin Return.

CPU/Software Considerations and Terms

Accumulators

Counter in memory which counts the number of items. For each coin type being monitored (nickels, dimes, and quarters) there are three unique accumulators. For each item being tracked there is one set of three accumulators. Items being tracked would include, but not limited to: Coins in Holding Bin 1, Coins in Holding Bin 2, Coins in Holding Bin 3, Maximum Coins in Sorta/Changer, Minimum Coins in Sorta/Changer, Current Coins in Sorta/Changer, Current Coins in Overflow Bin, etc.

Indicators

Indicators are switches in memory that indicate specific conditions. These switch settings are checked after every transaction is processed through the CPU.

- The "No Change" indicator is set if any accumulator in Current Coins in Sorta/Changer is less than the corresponding accumulator in Minimum Coins in Sorta/Changer.
- The "Sorta/Changer Full" Indicator is set if any accumulator in Current Coins in Sorta/Changer plus the corresponding accumulator in Coins in Holding Bin (x) is greater than or equal to the corresponding accumulator in Maximum Coins in Sorta/Changer.
- The "Value in Holding Bin (x)" contains the computed value of all coins accepted by the corresponding Coin Acceptor.
- The "Value of Vending Bin (y)" contains the predetermined value of the product to be dispensed from bin (y). This value is set by the operator, and may not be changed by the customer.

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#08/881,021 Johnson

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT DRAWING REVIEW
DRAFTPERSON FOR 08/881,021 Applicant
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20131

Subject: Enclosed: Figure Drawings proposed corrections for applicant #08/881,021 filed 06/23/97

Dear Drawing Review Draftperson:

In answer to your more recent office action to me the applicant of control number 08/881,021 referencing an objection of:

- (1) Figures 5, and 6 color drawing not acceptable until petition is granted
- (5) Margins not acceptable for Figures 1,3,7,10,14, top and left
- (6) View of numbered 10 not labeled, separately or properly
- (10) Character of lines, numbers, & letters Figures 1-14, 15
- (12) Numbers and reference characters not plain and legible
- (15) views not numbered consecutively and in Arabic numerals

Ending comments reflected: Gray Black areas of Figures 1,3,4,7,9,13

In answer to all of the above